

## **Sample Support Letter:**

Dear (City Council Member):

On November 21, the St. Petersburg City Council will take an important step towards a safe and prosperous future. By creating and funding the Integrated Sustainability Action Plan (ISAP), the City will not only exemplify sustainability leadership, it will create a plan of ACTION to achieve our goals. I urge you to support the allocation of \$250,000 from BP Oil Spill funds towards the ISAP.

I believe it is important for my City to improve infrastructure, to work towards clean energy, to protect ourselves from extreme weather events, to serve as a leader to the region and the state and to do all of this in a way that spends taxpayer dollars wisely.

**PICK YOUR SUBJECT - BE CAREFUL TO NOT HAVE REPETITIVE SENTENCES IF PICK MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT!!!**

### **Comment on the Economy:**

Advancing technology is the wave of the future. Through the adoption of energy efficient and clean energy technologies as well as the improvement of infrastructure in resilient ways, St. Pete will be a shining example to the world of a City positioned to forward-thinking and technologically-advanced companies and inventors. It will be a City prepared to take advantage of opportunities of the future, taking one step closer to becoming “an innovative, creative and competitive community that honors our past while pursuing our future.”

### **Comment on Equity**

As a resident of our city, community involvement is crucial to me. It is of utmost importance to ensure local government representatives, community members, and organizations work together to create a culture of collaboration that encourages innovation, sharing of resources, and jointly-shared accountability for results. The ISAP will ensure all share in the sustainable future of St Petersburg and the opportunities which arise from it, making us more of a community where “the sun shines on all who come to live, work and play.”

### **Comment on Efficient Government**

Efficient government is effective government. The “I” in ISAP stands for Integrated and with numerous issues and projects to address (energy, waste resources, transportation, water, wastewater, built environment and city government operations) it is vital that there is a central plan in place for the various City departments that provides guidance and INTEGRATES all the various components to ensure a comprehensive, transparent and effective course of action. Energy efficiency, clean energy, resiliency, equity, community involvement - these should not be afterthoughts - they should be included in the City planning efforts from the start. By assessing our weaknesses and carefully planning our investments, we can ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and that we remain a “city of opportunity.”

### **STAR Communities**

I was very pleased with the St Petersburg’s adoption of STAR communities as a guidepost for our sustainability initiatives and as a measuring tool. The ISAP will serve as a blueprint for the City’s Sustainability Office towards the achievement of a 5 star rating. It is imperative that we make a plan of action to achieve this stated goal. By carefully planning our investments and measuring our success, we can ensure that we will be a community “where the sun shines on all who come to live, work and play.”

### **Regional Leadership**

I am proud of St Petersburg’s leadership in our region. City leaders who set the example, push our community forward, have high goals and work towards them are ones that I am proud of. I want to live in a city that is a leader

not a follower. It is more important now than ever that cities remain the bedrock of innovation, that we focus on local growth and protect ourselves from future threats. Prove to the world that we are an “innovative, creative and competitive community that honors our past while pursuing our future.” Ensure that we are “a city of opportunity where the sun shines on all who come to live, work and play” by supporting the ISAP. Please be a leader!

### **The Environment**

Cities, like ours, are on the frontlines of climate change and have an important role to play as we transition away from fossil fuels to 100% clean energy. Saint Petersburg is already feeling the impacts of climate change, as increased coastal flooding has put a strain on our sewage infrastructure and management. These threats will only grow worse unless we take steps to protect our community and address the problem. This resolution is a critical step toward achieving those goals. The Saint Petersburg vote will demonstrate that in the face of recalcitrant utilities in Florida and across the country that are leading efforts to gut rooftop solar; cities and communities are seizing control over local energy choices and charging forward with plans to transition away from fossil fuels while demanding more local, clean energy solutions.

### **Energy Independence**

The Sun shines here - after a hurricane and regardless of the world political situations. The Sun Shines Here, an endless supply. Want energy independence, use the Sun!

Please vote YES to allocate \$250,0000 of the BP oil spill settlement towards the Integrated Sustainability Action Plan(ISAP.) While no amount of money can ever undo the damage BP inflicted on Gulf communities and our environment in 2010, this measure can help begin to address the root cause of the problem by accelerating the transition away from dirty fuels to 100% clean energy and lead St Petersburg towards a sustainable future.

Thank you for your consideration,